countries, these measures are likely to result in increased bilateral trade.

Decline In Export of Rice

546. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's rice export during the first seven months of 1999-2000 declined by 67.7 per cent at 14.20 lakh tonnes compared to 44 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period last year;

(b) if so, what are the factors responsible for such decline; and

(c) what steps are being proposed by Government to increase the export of rice in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The total quantity and value of export of rice (basmati & non-basmati rice) during the period April—August, 99 and April—August, 98 are as follows:—

Period	Quantity (in lakh MT)	Value (in Rs. crores)
April—August, 99 (Prov.)	6.68	1140.88
April—August, 98	16.40	2153.72

(SOURCE: DGCI&S Calcutta)

(b) The exports of rice would depend upon International demand and the domestic supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preferences, and varieties traded. Low international demand and better crop production in rice consuming countries has led to the shrinking of Indian rice exports.

(c) Some of the steps taken to enhance exports of rice include conducting publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providig financial assistance to exporters for improving quality,

packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

Clearance of Industrial projects from Gujarat

547. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of industrial projects from Gujarat lying pending for central clearance, alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of cost of each industrial project involved;

(c) whether additional information has been sought from the state Government/Organisations concerned;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) as on 30.11.99, no Industrial Licence Application is pending with the Central Government for grant of Letter of Intent for setting up of projects in the State of Gujarat.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Direct Foreign Investment

†548. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are making concrete efforts to attract foreign investors;

(b) if so, the details of these efforts; and

(c) the details of those industries in which Government are going to approve direct foreign investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) With a view to attracting more foreign direct investment (FDI), the FDI policy has been formulated and is continously reviewed so as to make it investor-friendly and to boost inflows of foreign direct investment and technology in the country, particularly in infrastructure/core sector,